

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MASS, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE IN US PRESS

WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER DUSKO DODER BY-LINED FOLLOWING
ARTICLE ENTITLED "US PLANES SENT TO JOIN ZAIRE AIRLIFT"
IN SUNDAY JUNE 4 EDITION OF WASHINGTON POST:

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES DISPATCHED 11 AIR FORCE C141
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO YESTERDAY TO BEGIN AIRLIFT-
ING MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE'S WAR-TORN SHABA PROVINCE.

AT THE SAME TIME, US OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT A FIVE-NATION
WESTERN CONFERENCE ON ZAIRE HAS BEEN MOVED UP ONE DAY AND
IS TO OPEN IN PARIS TODAY IN AN EFFORT TO GET OTHER AFRI-
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CAN NATIONS TO JOIN MOROCCO.

TOGO AND IVORY COAST ARE REPORTED CLOSE TO JOINING THE
SHABA PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICI-
PANTS ARE SENEGAL AN1 GABON.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG

HUA FLEW TO ZAIRE YESTERDAY IN WHAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES INTERPRETED AS PEKING'S ATTEMPT TO COUNTER GROWING SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

HUANG HELD A ONE-HOUR PRIVATE MEETING IN NEW YORK FRIDAY WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE THAT FOCUSED MAINLY ON THE AFRICAN SITUATION.

HUANG IS THE FIRST HIGH RANKING FOREIGN OFFICIAL TO VISIT ZAIRE SINCE ANGOLA-BASED KATANGAN REBELS MOUNTED THEIR INVASION OF THE MINERAL-RICH SHABA SIX WEEKS AGO.

PEKING'S SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO OF ZAIRE APPEARED TO RUN PARALLEL WITH WESTERN EFFORTS TO SHORE UP MOBUTU'S REGIME.

IN ANNOUNCING THE BEGINNING OF US LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE IN ZAIRE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TROOPS OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO ZAIRE 'AS REQUESTS FROM INTERESTED AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS EVOLVE.'

THE AIRLIFT OF MOROCCANS WAS TO GET UNDER WAY TODAY AND THE US PLANES WILL ALSO TRANSPORT FRENCH TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN ZAIRE BACK TO FRANCE. THE AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IS TO REPLACE THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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TROOPS THAT DROVE KATANGAN REBEL INVADERS OUT OF THE SHABA MINING CENTER OF KOLWEZI LAST WEEK.

TODAY'S PARIS MEETINGS INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND BELGIUM. THE AMERICAN TEAM IS LED BY DAVID NEWSOM, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THE AIRLIFT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN FRIDAY NIGHT, INVOLVES AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL FROM FOUR US AIR FORCE BASES -- MCGUIRE IN NEW JERSEY, NORTON IN CALIFORNIA, CHARLESTON IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND MCCHORD IN WASHINGTON STATE.

A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE AIRCRAFT LANDED YESTERDAY AT AGADIR, MOROCCO; CORSICA, AND TWO ZAIRIAN AIRBASES, AT KINSHASA AND LUBUMBASHI, TO SET UP GROUND SUPPORT FACILITIES TO BE USED IN THE OPERATION.

OFFICIALS REFUSED TO SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF US SERVICE-MEN INVOLVED. BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID NO US COMBAT TROOPS WERE INVOLVED AND THE US AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT FLY INTO COMBAT AREAS.

'THE UNITED STATES WILL PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE AS IT DID
IN THE EARLIER TRANSPORT OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS TO

ZAIRE,' THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID. IT ADDED THAT THE
US ASSISTANCE 'IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEW THAT AFRICAN
PROBLEMS ARE BEST SOLVED BY AFRICANS.'

HUANG, IN HIS STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN ZAIRE, ATTACKED
THE SOVIET UNION, ACCUSING IT OF SEEKING TO CONTROL THE
STRATEGIC AFRICAN NATION AS PART OF MOSCOW'S POLICY OF
WORLD DOMINATION. HE ALSO ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION AND
CUBA FOR THEIR ALLEGED ROLE IN THE INVASION OF SHABA
PROVINCE.

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THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO MENTION OF THE
AMERICAN AIRLIFT OPERATION OR THE WESTERN EFFORT TO
ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF A PAN-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING
FORCE.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THE AIRLIFT WOULD TAKE
SEVERAL DAYS AND THAT THE ALL-AFRICAN FORCE WOULD

COMPRISE ABOUT 1500 MOROCCANS AND UP TO 1000 TROOPS
FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. VANCE

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